

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-17 remain pending in the application, claims 6 and 7 being canceled herein.

The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider earlier rejections in light of the following remarks. No new issues are raised nor is further search required as a result of the changes made herein. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 8-17

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a phone interview, and for the return phone call on December 15, 2004, after speaking with his supervisor. As discussed in that phone call, the Examiner and his supervisor agreed that all claims in the application would be allowable if amended to include the subject matter of claims 6 and 7.

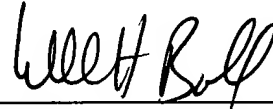
Independent claims 1, 8 and 13 are amended herein to include the subject matter of claims 6 and 7, with claims 6 and 7 being subsequently canceled.

It is believed that the Examiner would agree that all claims in the present application (claims 1-5 and 8-17) are now allowable. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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